

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 733

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PEARCE.

Read 1st time January 6, 2010, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3902S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the higher education academic scholarship program.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows:

173.250. 1. There is hereby established a "Higher Education Academic  
2 Scholarship Program" and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for  
3 this program shall be used to provide scholarships for Missouri citizens to attend  
4 a Missouri college or university of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this  
5 section.

6 2. The definitions of terms set forth in section [173.205] **173.1102** shall  
7 be applicable to such terms as used in this section. The term "academic  
8 scholarship" means an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a  
9 qualified college or university student who has demonstrated superior academic  
10 achievement pursuant to the provisions of this section.

11 3. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the administrative  
12 agency for the implementation of the program established by this section, and  
13 shall:

14 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its  
15 functions and the effectuation of the purposes of this section, including  
16 regulations for granting scholarship deferments;

17 (2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding academic  
18 scholarships, and shall supervise the processing thereof; and

19 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

20 awards of academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the  
21 manner and method of payment to the recipient.

22           4. A student shall be eligible for initial or renewed academic scholarship  
23 if he or she is in compliance with the eligibility requirements set forth in section  
24 ~~[173.215]~~ **173.1104** excluding the requirement of financial need and  
25 undergraduate status, and in addition meets the following requirements:

26           (1) Initial academic scholarships shall be offered in the academic year  
27 immediately following graduation from high school to Missouri high school seniors  
28 whose composite scores on the American College Testing Program (ACT) or the  
29 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board are in the top five percent of  
30 all Missouri students taking those tests during the school year in which the  
31 scholarship recipients graduate from high school. In the freshman year of college,  
32 scholarship recipients are required to maintain status as a full-time student;

33           (2) Academic scholarships are renewable if the recipient remains in  
34 compliance with the applicable provisions of section ~~[173.215]~~ **173.1104** and the  
35 recipient makes satisfactory academic degree progress as a full-time student.

36           5. A student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a  
37 postsecondary student at an approved private or public institution beginning with  
38 the fall 1987, term and who meets the other eligibility requirements for an  
39 academic scholarship shall, within the limits of the funds appropriated and made  
40 available, be offered an academic scholarship in the amount of two thousand  
41 dollars for each eligible student whose composite scores on the American College  
42 Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College  
43 Board are in the top three percent of all Missouri students taking those tests  
44 during the school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate from high  
45 school for each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2011, and, subject to appropriations,  
46 three thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year thereafter, and  
47 one thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year thereafter for each  
48 eligible student whose composite scores on the American College Testing Program  
49 (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board are between the  
50 top five and three percent of all Missouri students taking those tests during the  
51 school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate from high school, for the  
52 first academic year of study, which scholarship shall be renewable in the amount  
53 of two thousand dollars for each eligible student whose composite scores on the  
54 American College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)  
55 of the College Board are in the top three percent of all Missouri students taking

56 those tests during the school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate  
57 from high school for each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2011, and, subject to  
58 appropriations, three thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year  
59 thereafter, and one thousand dollars for fiscal year 2011 and every fiscal year  
60 thereafter for each eligible student whose composite scores on the American  
61 College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the  
62 College Board are between the top five and three percent of all Missouri students  
63 taking those tests during the school year in which the scholarship recipients  
64 graduate from high school, annually for the second, third and fourth academic  
65 years or as long as the recipient is in compliance with the applicable eligibility  
66 requirements set forth in section [173.215] **173.1104**, provided those years of  
67 study are continuous and the student continues to meet eligibility requirements  
68 for the scholarship; provided, however, if a recipient ceases all attendance at an  
69 approved public or private institution for the purpose of providing service to a  
70 nonprofit organization, a state or federal government agency or any branch of the  
71 armed forces of the United States, the recipient shall be eligible for a renewal  
72 scholarship upon return to any approved public or private institution, provided  
73 the recipient:

74       **(1) For a student who provides service to a nonprofit**  
75 **organization or a state or federal government agency**, returns to full-time  
76 status within twenty-seven months;

77       **(2) For a student who provides service to a branch of the armed**  
78 **forces of the United States, returns to full-time status within six months**  
79 **after the eligible student first ceases service to the armed forces and**  
80 **provides verification to the coordinating board for higher education**  
81 **that the military service was satisfactorily completed;**

82       **(3)** Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher  
83 education rules that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily  
84 completed and was not compensated other than for expenses or that the service  
85 to the state or federal governmental agency or branch of the armed forces of the  
86 United States was satisfactorily completed; and

87       **[(3)] (4)** Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive  
88 a renewal scholarship.

89       6. A recipient of academic scholarship awarded under this section may  
90 transfer from one approved Missouri public or private institution to another  
91 without losing eligibility for the scholarship. If a recipient of the scholarship at

92 any time withdraws from an approved private or public institution so that under  
93 the rules and regulations of that institution he or she is entitled to a refund of  
94 any tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the  
95 refund attributable to the scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for  
96 higher education.

97 7. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if a  
98 recipient has been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the  
99 provisions of this section but is unable to use the scholarship during the first  
100 academic year because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need or  
101 if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved public or private institution  
102 because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient shall  
103 be eligible for an initial or renewal scholarship upon enrollment in or return to  
104 any approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:

105 (1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

106 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher  
107 education rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability,  
108 pregnancy or other medical need of such person to require that that person will  
109 not be able to use the initial or renewal scholarship during the time period for  
110 which it was originally offered; and

111 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an  
112 initial or a renewal scholarship.

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